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have been a mistake. We can hardly suppose a N. W. wind, coming from the N. W. corner of this continent, without altering its course, to be the cause; if so, why are not the N. E. winds in Europe and Asia, in the same latitudes, as cold?—But we find they are not.



IV. *An Account of Frogs found in the Earth; in a Letter to the Reverend NEHEMIAH WILLIAMS, by Major SAMUEL HITCHCOCK.*

Brimfield, August 5, 1789.

S I R,

THE following extract of a letter was written me some time since, by Major Samuel Hitchcock; but by mistake, is but just come to hand. The letter was dated at Manchester, Vermont, November 27th, 1788. The account, contained in this letter, has since been confirmed to me by another gentleman, with this alteration, that the house must be as much as forty or fifty rods from the river.

“ I leave this place, for Burlington on Onion river, in three or four days, where I expect to reside in future. It is handsomely situated on Lake Champlain, and on a very pleasant river. I was informed by a gentleman in that town, of a curiosity, which I cannot forbear mentioning to you.

“ A gentleman of undoubted veracity, who lives about twelve or fifteen rods from the river side, informed me, that he had lately been digging a well by his house, about the same distance from the river. The house is situated on a little eminence, or rise, that overlooks the river and interval adjoining it; which, previous to his clearing it, was covered with a large growth of timber. The stumps appear to be two feet, two and an half, and three feet thick. At about

twenty

twenty or twenty five feet deep, the diggers discovered some small frogs, which appeared to adhere closely to the earth, and perfectly stupified and dead. They threw them out of the well ; and when they were exposed to the heat of the sun, in a short time, they appeared to vivify ; and soon became full of life and activity. As they still dug deeper, they discovered more of them ; which exhibited the same phenomena. My informant told me, that he was himself a witness to as many as twenty or thirty of them.

“ At about forty feet depth, they came upon a large stump, at the root of which they discovered a fine spring of water. He showed me a piece of the stump : it resembled button wood. I was particular in my inquiry, whether there were no avenues, or cavities in the earth, leading or communicating with the river ; through which the frogs might have passed ? He informed me, none ; nor any appearance of water. How long those animals must have remained there, it is impossible to determine ; but in all probability, they must have been in that inactive state, some hundred years. From the discovery of the stump, it is evident, that the land must have been made land. I conclude, that in some inundation of the river, those animals must have been covered up ; and there remained ever since.”

I have nothing to add ; but only, from the information that I have received, I cannot question the truth of the above account, however extraordinary it appears.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient, and

very humble servant,

NEHEMIAH WILLIAMS.

CALEB GANNETT, *Esq. Recording Secretary.* &c.